

REMARKS

Claim 6 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,830 issued to Beard et al. that describes a system for allowing a peripheral device to be inserted directly into a port of a computer system while the computer system is powered on. Beard requires that each of the devices provide their own addressing during an autoconfiguration phase. For example, at column 9, lines 43 – 51

"If the Q-PORT device receives 314 the LEGACY.sub.-- RESET.sub.-- ACK command, then the *Q-PORT device sets 316 its legacy internal flag to identify itself as the legacy device handler and sets 318 its logical device address at 0x01*. If instead the Q-PORT device receives 320 a RESET.sub.-- ACK command, indicating that the slave device is another Q-PORT device, it waits 322 for the slave device to send its logical device address. *The Q-PORT device sets 324 its logical device address as the slave's logical device address plus one*".

Therefore, Beard requires that each peripheral device set its own address.

In contrast, the invention as recited in claim 1 solely relies upon the host to initialize the devices connected to a communication bus. More specifically, claim 1 recites:

"A method of initializing devices connected to a communication bus by a host, comprising:

- (a) determining which devices, if any, are branded devices and which devices, if any, are unbranded devices *by the host*;
- if there are no branded devices,
- (b) sending a first focus command *by the host* to a first one of the devices connected to the communication bus as a focused device;
- (c) in response to a probe command sent by the host to the focused device, returning configuration information by the focused device; and
- (d) branding the focused device *by the host* based upon the confirmation information."

Furthermore, paragraph [0015] of the specification states,

"All communications between host device 12 and peripheral devices 20-34 is initiated by host device 12. Devices only will transmit data in response to a command received from host device 12. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, communication bus 14 can share a

single data channel (i.e., it is half duplex) without any two devices on the same comm bus port ever driving the bus at the same time, because only one device from each comm bus port will be responding to a host command at a time” and at paragraph [0017] states

“In addition, when a device is “focused”, host device 12 can “brand” the device by assigning it an identity number between 1 and 31, and setting the *branded* bit high”.

In this way, it is the host that directs the entire configuration process and only relies upon the peripheral devices to provide specific device information that does NOT include a logical address as required by Beard.

Accordingly, the Applicant believes that claim 1 is not anticipated by Beard and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections thereof.

Independent claims 6 and 10 recite essentially the same limitations as claim 1 and are therefore also believed to be allowable over the cited art.

All dependent claims depend from claims 1 or 6 and are also believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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/MJF/

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